

## APPENDIX A

### Public Involvement

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As a result of the aggressive court timeline set for the ENF motor vehicle travel management project, a public involvement schedule and process was developed to ensure ample opportunity for public involvement throughout the NEPA process. The process focused on being open, honest, and transparent. The primary objectives of this level of involvement was to: (1) engage and involve the public to every extent possible; (2) provide insight to internal decision-making processes to help build understanding and trust; (3) help the public learn, understand, and build knowledge about the process so that they could be effective participants; and (4) have proactive outreach and innovative public meetings to provide additional opportunity for public input to and discussion with agency officials.

Prior to releasing the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a forest-wide EIS to designate routes for public motor vehicle use, the ENF Forest Supervisor and travel management team leader met individually with the past plaintiffs and interveners to discuss the timeline for the travel management process, the public involvement process for the project, and the Forest Supervisor's ideas for an initial agency proposed action. These individuals generally accepted this approach and were pleased that the Forest Supervisor took the time to meet with them and was candid in his remarks.

Presentations to provide this information were also given to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, the Amador County Board of Supervisors, the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, and at various user group meetings. The ENF motor vehicle travel management project was also listed in the USDA Forest Service schedule of proposed actions (SOPA) on August 5, 2005.

Two public meetings were held on September 14 and 15, 2005, in Placerville and Jackson, CA, respectively, to present the information previously described, as well as solicit public input to help the Forest develop the purpose and need for the project. Approximately 60 people attended the Placerville meeting, and approximately 40 people attended the Jackson meeting. This step was important because the purpose and need outlines the boundaries for the alternatives to the agency's proposed action that are considered in detail. Public input was recorded at both of these meetings, reviewed by the Forest Supervisor and travel management team leader, and posted on the ENF travel management website with responses of how the input was or was not used to further develop the purpose and need. In the NOI under the section titled "Additional Purpose and Needs Identified from Public Input", there are five additional elements that were added to the purpose and need as a result of public input.

Comments were recorded at this meeting, reviewed by the Forest Supervisor and travel management team leader, and posted on the ENF travel management website with responses of how the input was or was not used to further develop the list of significant issues.

In addition to this meeting, the travel management team leader held a meeting upon request with key stakeholders of various OHV groups on November 20, 2005, to discuss their concerns about the proposed seasonal closure. The issue was discussed, and the comments from the groups were recorded and later reviewed as public comments in response to the NOI. The travel management interdisciplinary team (IDT) reviewed all of these comments together and developed a list of issues to be addressed in alternatives to the agency proposed action. On September 6, 2006 the

Forest Supervisor identified the significant issues for the project that were used to develop alternatives to the agency proposed action. The Forest Service continued to collect public input prior to release of the Draft EIS. This input was also screened by the Interdisciplinary Team and the Forest Supervisor finalized the list of significant issues on June 4, 2007.

Comment cards were also collected at the meeting, reviewed by the Forest Supervisor and travel management team leader, and posted on the ENF travel management website with responses to concerns or questions. After the open houses, the public was then invited to visit the travel management team leader and other IDT staff individually or as groups at the ENF Forest Supervisor's Office in Placerville, CA, from June 15 to June 30. Approximately, 15 individuals and groups made appointments and visited with the staff for various amounts of time. The staff answered all questions, provided information requested, discussed specific routes and other concerns about the preliminary alternatives, and recorded the comments. On July 27, 2006, the travel management team leader met upon request with various stakeholders of environmental groups at the ENF Forest Supervisor's Office in Placerville, CA, from 6 pm to 9 pm to discuss the preliminary alternatives and specific routes in the alternatives of concern. The IDT reviewed the comments from the open houses and meetings and revised the preliminary alternatives as appropriate.

The number of conference call participants, questions asked, and responses given have been posted on the ENF website for most conference calls. A reminder about the conference call dates and times were usually sent out every Thursday and Monday prior to the Tuesday conference call to the route designation email list that has been generated throughout the life of the project, as well as posted on the ENF travel management website.

The Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the Federal Register on July 20, 2007 and copies of the DEIS were mailed to over 510 individuals, organizations, tribes, and government agencies. Six public meetings were held between July 24 and August 14, 2007 in Placerville, Jackson, Markleeville, Folsom and Concord California to discuss the DEIS. These public meetings were arranged to provide information to the public about the release of the DEIS, a brief summary of the information contained in the DEIS, instructions on how to comment on the DEIS, and provided an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions or provide comments at that time. A total of over 900 individuals attended the various public meetings. In addition to the public meetings, the ENF website included a section devoted to information about the DEIS, links to the DEIS, and instructions on how to comment on the DEIS. An information handout was made available to the public which also described the purpose of the project, the availability of the DEIS, and information on how to comment on the DEIS.

The comment period was originally scheduled to close on September 4, 2007. The comment period was extended an additional 45 days based on request from the public for additional time to review the DEIS. The comment period ended on October 22, 2007. Over 6,000 individuals responded during the comment period. Appendix C contains the summary of comments and responses to comments. Following the 90-day comment period for the DEIS, the comments received were assessed and considered, and the following actions were taken: Alternative B was modified, which is referred to as Modified B in the FEIS, corrections were made to the other action alternatives; and the environmental consequences were supplemented.